

Noxious and Invasive Weed Update

Plant Protection and Weed Control

Fall 2020

Special points of interest:

- Never plant any seeds you receive in the mail that you did not order.
- It is a very good idea to not purchase seed, or plants on the internet. You never know where they come from, what they may be carrying or, in many cases, what they are.
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Earlier this year, the KDA received hundreds of emails, phone calls and website reports of Kansas residents from at least 65 counties receiving packages of unidentified seed in the mail that they did not order. In fact, reports came in from all 50 states, and several other countries, of this same thing happening. It seems that some companies, mostly in China, mailed these packages, usually labeled as jewelry or electronic components, to unwitting people in order to increase their website ratings in a scheme called “brushing”.

KDA’s concern with this is the chance of some of these seeds being of highly invasive species or carrying

exotic diseases or insect pests that could invade our environment and cause incalculable damage to the ecosystem or agricultural industry of Kansas if they were planted or disposed of improperly. Because of that, KDA worked closely with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop appropriate methods of disposing of the seeds and the packaging in which they were mailed. For more information on those disposal methods, please visit our website at www.agriculture.ks.gov/Seed.

USDA has been working to identify the seeds received and to determine if there were any diseases or in-

sect pests attached to them and KDA has worked to identify and remove any of the seeds that were inadvertently planted.

As of the writing of this article, only 3 federal noxious weeds have been identified from the seeds submitted by recipients. Two were exotic dodders, a parasitic vine that has native relatives, and water spinach, a highly invasive aquatic plant.



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Weed Management in the Times of COVID-19

I know I don’t need to tell you about the COVID-19 pandemic, but I thought I would update you on the status of some on-going weed management activities and groups.

The KDA has been active in both its mission and in doing its best to keep its employees and clients safe and isolated. Thanks to the wonders of this electronic age, most employees have been able to work from home since March while still keeping active in per-

forming their duties as usual. The main office and all field offices have been open since the Stay-At-Home order was lifted in April, with safety and distancing procedures in place, for those who need to be there. Meetings are being held using video conferencing applications whenever possible.

Most county weed departments remained open for weed control activities, because, is there anywhere more socially isolated than

the cab of a spray rig? No-contact cost share sales procedures were developed and implemented so landowners were not left without weed control resources any longer than necessary. Those that did close temporarily, reopened at the soonest opportunity. Please contact your county weed department for information on current cost share sales procedures.

We hope you are all staying safe and healthy.

Weed Management Resources: An Introduction

.In an attempt to provide assistance to those of you out there trying to manage, control, and eradicate weeds of any kind, but especially noxious and invasive weeds, I will be devoting this space to providing access to resources that will help in this seemingly never-ending fight.

In this age of easy computer access, many of these resources will be inter-



net sites and smartphone applications (apps). If you are of an age at which these “new-fangled electronic gizmos” are confusing and hard to work with, you can always ask your grandchildren for help. In all seriousness, I will try to include some resources that you can either hold in your hand or talk to as well as the digital ones.

The resources I have in mind will cover as aspects of weed management as possible. From plant identification and mapping to weed control and

land management. I will try to cover all types of Integrated Weed Management on all types of land; agricultural, wildland and residential.

I will provide not only the name and type of the resources, but some idea on how to use them as well. For websites, I will provide a link and for apps I will show the icon that will appear on your phone. A note on smartphone apps. My phone uses android apps and so I have more familiarity with them, but will do my best to include iPhone apps as well.



Control Corner: Some Dicamba Registrations Repealed

In June of this year the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals repealed the registrations of three specific Dicamba products finding that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) violated the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Those products are Bayer’s Xtendi-Max with vapor grip technology, BASF’s Engenia, and Corteva’s FeXapan, all of which were developed specifically for use on dicamba-ready (Xtend) soybeans. The court also stated that EPA failed to consider how difficult to follow the new label restrictions written in 2018 would be.

In response to the court’s decision, the EPA issued an order that addressed the sale, distribution, and use of existing stocks of the three dicamba products.

The first part of the order states that nobody can sell or move either of the products except to dispose of them or return them to the dealer. The second part says that growers and commercial applicators can use existing stocks of the product, if they were in their possession before June 3, 2020, the effective date of the court’s decision. This use must, as usual, be consistent with the product’s previously-approved label. The deadline for this use, however, was July 31, 2020.

Keep in mind that the above-listed products are the only ones involved in this decision. The standard dicamba that has been available for many years and sold under names such as Banvel, Clarity, Diablo, Rifle and Vanquish, among others, is still available in retail establishments and as cost

share from those county noxious weed departments that choose to sell it. Contact your county weed department for more information

The court’s ruling can be found here <https://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2020/06/03/19-70115.pdf>



K-State Research and Extension



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Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

Our mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantined pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

Invasive Species Spotlight (Yellow and Dalmatian Toadflaxes)

Two of the many species that were introduced as ornamental garden plants but expanded beyond their intended confines are yellow toadflax and Dalmatian toadflax. While they both have yellow, snapdragon-like flowers, are both per-



ennials and both grow up to three feet, they also have many differences.

Yellow toadflax has long, narrow leaves and its flowers are pale yellow with a darker yellow to orange tongue, hence its other name, butter-and-eggs. It was introduced from Eurasia in the 1600s and has since spread nation-wide. In Kansas it can be found in small, scattered patches throughout most of the state.

Dalmatian toadflax, on the other hand, has short, broad, heart-shaped leaves

whose base wraps around, or clasps, the stem. Its bright yellow flowers produce as many as 500,000 seeds per plant. It was not introduced until the late 1800s or early 1900s and came from the Mediterranean region. It has spread through all but the southeastern part of the country and can also be found in scattered populations in most parts of the state.

The control options are similar for both species. Both have biological control agents available upon request (contact your coun-

ty weed director). Mechanical controls are ineffective because both plants have deep taproots. Several chemical controls are available at your local retailers. They include chlorsulfuron, dicamba, imazapic and picloram.

